

# Cincinnati Fire/Rescue

## *Special Flood Information*



*Cincinnati Fire/Rescue Boat 3 patrolling along Kellogg Avenue (left), and the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Tennyson Street (right).*

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### **NFIP TO ADD COVERAGE FOR INCREASED COST OF COMPLIANCE**

WASHINGTON March 26, 1997- People with flood insurance underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) soon can get some help with the extra cost of rebuilding or altering flood-damaged structures to comply with current state or local floodplain management ordinances.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials who administer the NFIP promise that for an additional premium of up to \$75, every property owner who purchases or renews a flood insurance policy after June 1, 1997, will receive \$15,000 coverage to help pay for elevating, flood proofing, demolishing or relocating a structure that has been substantially or repetitively damaged by flooding.

This "Increased Cost of Compliance" (ICC) coverage was mandated under the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994. Details were published in the Federal Register on February 25, 1997, as a final rule amending NFIP regulations. The final rule incorporates several recommendations submitted during a comment period following earlier publication of the proposed rule on September 23, 1996.

ICC coverage only applies if the community has adopted and is enforcing a substantial damage or repetitive loss provision in its floodplain management ordinance that requires action by the property owner.

FEMA recognizes that \$15,000 generally will not be sufficient to pay all of the costs to

bring a structure into compliance with state and community floodplain management laws and ordinances, but believes it will make a significant contribution toward those costs. Although the owner must bear a portion of the cost, there should be a commensurate increase in the value of the property that will offset at least part of the cost.

"FEMA will review its experience with ICC from time to time to determine whether adjustments should be made in the pricing, the amount of the benefit, or other aspects of the coverage," said FEMA Director James Lee Witt.

"Furthermore," Witt said, "other mitigation resources and programs from FEMA---as well as other federal, state and local resources---may be used to supplement the ICC payment to help property owners comply with state and local laws."

Under the NFIP, federally backed flood insurance is available in communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations to reduce future flood damage. Currently there are nearly 3.6 million flood insurance policies in force nationwide, representing more than \$382 billion worth of coverage.

Please Note: The full text of the ICC final rule is available on the FEMA Worldwide Web Internet site at <http://www.fema.gov/library/frnfip97.htm>

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**News Release - Gold Star Chili, Inc**  
**5204 Beechmont Avenue**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio 45230**  
**(513) 231-4541**

### **Gold Star Chili to Recognize Efforts of Fire Fighters During Flood of 1997**

Cincinnati, March 13 -- Gold Star Chili will be recognizing the efforts of Cincinnati Fire Fighters this Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the Gold Star Chili location on Fourth Street in downtown Cincinnati.

Gold Star Chili will treat the fire fighters from Cincinnati Fire Division District One to free lunch and provide free three-way coupons for Cincinnati Fire Chief Tom Steidel to distribute to all fire fighters and dispatchers under his direction. John Sullivan, president of Gold Star Chili, will also present a plaque to Chief Steidel in appreciation for the fire fighters and their efforts to help the citizens of Cincinnati affected by the flood.

"Since March 1, fire fighters along with others in the city have worked overtime to evacuate victims and continue to work diligently with the cleanup efforts," explains Sullivan. "We wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks for their help during the flood as well as every day that they put their life on the line for the people of Cincinnati.

"They all deserve a "Gold Star," Sullivan said.

According to Chief Steidel, fire fighters and dispatchers have been working around-the-clock overtime shifts during the flood providing assistance in a variety of ways: from evacuating families by boat; to providing emergency medical services to areas under water; to dealing with safe disposal of hazardous materials displaced by the water. Fire fighters also responded to a two-alarm fire Tuesday on Worth Street off Eastern Avenue located in the flood area.

Gold Star Chili stores were affected by the flood with total loss of a store located in Falmouth and water damage to locations at New Richmond and Ripley. Total damage estimates have not yet been determined.

Gold Star adopted fire fighters as the company's corporate cause two years ago. Gold Star sponsors many fire fighter programs throughout the year including The Gold Star Chili Greater Cincinnati Fire Fighter of the Year, Code Red, Operation Safe, ChiliFest to benefit the Cincinnati Fire Museum and National Fire Fighter Day in December.

For any additional information, please contact Gail Guge, Gold Star Chili, Inc. at (513) 721-5353.

**Consumer Product Safety Commission Alert**  
**From the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C.**  
**20207**

**Safety Tips for Flood Victims**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends several safety tips to the victims of floods. This safety alert illustrates some dangerous practices which consumers may be tempted to engage in during efforts to rebuild or while staying in temporary housing, tents, or partially damaged homes. This information is provided in an effort to prevent injuries and deaths from consumer products as flood survivors make new beginnings. "We hope this information helps prevent product-related injuries and deaths during these difficult times."

- Chairman Ann Brown

For more disaster-related information or help with emergency preparedness, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers. If electrical appliances have been under water, have them dried out and reconditioned by a qualified service repairman. Do not turn on damaged electrical appliances because the electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard or overheat and cause a fire. Before flipping a switch or plugging in an appliance, have an electrician check the house wiring and appliance to make sure it is safe to use.

Electricity and water don't mix.

Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

When using a "wet-dry vacuum cleaner," be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electric shock.

Do not allow the power cord connections to become wet. Do not remove or bypass the ground pin on the three-prong plug. Use a GFCI to prevent electrocution.

NEVER remove or bypass the ground pin on a three-pronged plug in order to insert it into a non-grounded outlet.

NEVER allow the connection between the machine's power cord and the extension cord to lie in water.

To prevent a gas explosion and fire, have gas appliances (natural gas and LP gas) inspected and cleaned after flooding.

If gas appliances have been under water, have them inspected and cleaned and their gas controls replaced. The gas company or a qualified appliance repair person or plumber should do this work. Water can damage gas controls so that safety features are blocked, even if the gas controls appear to operate properly. If you suspect a gas leak, don't light a match, use any electrical appliance, turn lights on or off, or use the phone. These may produce sparks. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or hear gas escaping, turn off the main valve, open windows, leave the area immediately, and call the gas company or a qualified appliance repair person or plumber for repairs. Never store flammable materials near any gas appliance or equipment.

Check to make sure your smoke detector is functioning.

Smoke detectors can save your life in a fire. Check the battery frequently to make sure it is operating. Fire extinguishers also are a good idea.

Gasoline is made to explode!

Never use gasoline around ignition sources such as cigarettes, matches, lighters, water heaters, or electric sparks. Gasoline vapors can travel and be ignited by pilot light or other ignition sources. Make sure that gasoline powered generators are away from easily combustible materials.

Chain saws can cause serious injuries

Chain saws can be hazardous, especially if they "kick back." To help reduce this hazard, make sure that your chain saw is equipped with the low-kickback chain. Look for other safety features on chain saws, including hand guard, safety tip, chain brake, vibration reduction system, spark arrestor on gasoline models, trigger or throttle lockout, chain catcher, and bumper spikes. Always wear shoes, gloves, and protective glasses. On new saws, look for certification to the ANSI B-175.1 standard.

When cleaning up from a flood, store medicines and chemicals away from young children. Poisonings can happen when young children swallow medicines and household chemicals.

Keep household chemicals and medicines locked up away from children. Use the child resistant closures that come on most medicines and chemicals.

Burning charcoal gives off carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide has no odor and can kill you. Never burn charcoal inside homes, tents, campers, vans, cars, trucks, garages, or mobile homes.

**WARNING:** Submerged gas control valves, circuit breakers, and fuses pose explosion and fire hazard!

Replace all gas control valves, circuit breakers, and fuses that have been under water:

**GAS CONTROL VALVES** on furnaces, water heaters, and other gas appliances that have been under water are unfit for continued use. If they are used, they could cause a fire or an explosion. Silt and corrosion from flood water can damage internal components of control valves and prevent proper operation. Gas can leak and result in an explosion or fire. Replace **ALL** gas control valves that have been under water.

**ELECTRIC CIRCUIT BREAKERS AND FUSES** can malfunction when water and silt get inside. Discard **ALL** circuit breakers and fuses that have been submerged.

## **FEMA WARNING; TAKE PRECAUTIONS WHEN RETURNING TO WATER DAMAGED HOMES**

WASHINGTON -- In the wake of the recent flooding, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials urge anyone returning to water damaged homes, apartments

or businesses to take extra precautions before and during their clean up efforts.

"The dangers are not over after the water subsides, because flood damage may have occurred," said James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"Hazards such as a weakened foundation, exposed wires or contaminated water are not always obvious and can be potentially life threatening if precautions are not taken," Witt said.

"If, at any time, you are unsure of or feel uncomfortable with a situation, do not hesitate to ask for help or seek advice from an expert," he added. "Play it safe."

Disaster officials are urging people to keep these safety tips in mind:

#### BEFORE ENTERING A BUILDING:

Check the outside of the building: Call the utility company immediately if you find downed power lines or detect gas leaks. (Gas leaks will emit an odor of rotten eggs.)

Look for external damage: Examine the foundation for cracks or other damage. Also examine porch roofs and overhangs to be sure they still have all their supports. Look for gaps between the steps and the house. If any supports or portions of the foundation walls are missing or the ground has washed away, the floor is not safe. If you see obvious damage, have a building inspector check the house before you go in.

Enter the building carefully: If the door sticks at the top it could mean the ceiling is ready to fall. If you force the door open, stand outside the doorway clear of falling debris.

#### AFTER ENTERING A BUILDING:

Look before you step: The ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks: Do not strike a match or use an open flame when you enter the building unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area ventilated. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage.

Turn off the electricity: Even if the power company has turned off electricity to the area, be sure to disconnect your house's power supply. Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.

Replace exposed wires: Electrical wires that have been exposed to salt water are recyclable junk and must be replaced.

Watch for animals, especially snakes: Small animals that have been watered out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a stick to poke and turn items over and scare away small animals.

Carbon monoxide exhaust kills: Use a generator or other gasoline powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Charcoal fumes are deadly; cook with charcoal outdoors.

Drain your basement carefully: Water in the ground puts pressure on your basement walls and floors. Drain the basement gradually to minimize further structural damage.

Hose the house: Most of the health hazards brought by a flood are in the mud and silt that is left after the water drains away. Shovel out as much mud as possible and hose the house down, inside and out.

Be aware of health hazards: Floodwaters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Many flooded items, such as wallboard and mattresses, will hold mud and contamination forever. Spoiled food, flooded cosmetics, and medicine are also health hazards. When in doubt, throw them out.

## **PRESIDENT DECLARES MAJOR DISASTER FOR OHIO; FOURTEEN COUNTIES DESIGNATED FOR FEDERAL AID**

WASHINGTON March 4, 1997 - Federal disaster funds were approved today to help meet the recovery needs of families and businesses in 14 flood-ravaged southern Ohio counties, according to the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA Director James Lee Witt said President Clinton ordered the assistance this afternoon because of damage from severe storms and flooding that hit the state starting February 28. The President took the action following a review of the agency's analysis of the state's expedited request for federal relief.

Immediately after the President's major disaster declaration, Witt designated the following counties eligible for aid to stricken residents and business owners: Adams, Athens, Brown, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton and Washington. He said that additional forms of assistance and more counties may be designated later based on the results of ongoing damage assessments.

The aid, to be coordinated by FEMA, can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, minor home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

David A. Skarosi, of FEMA's regional office in Chicago, Ill., was named by Witt to

coordinate the federal relief effort. Skarosi said that residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin the disaster application process by calling 1-800-462-9029, or 1-800-462-7585 (TDD) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will be available starting Wednesday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET) seven days a week until further notice.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Office of Emergency Information & Media Affairs --- Washington, D.C.

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## **ATTENTION TELEVISION STATIONS IN FLOODED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES**

### **FLOOD RECOVERY VIDEO NEWS PACKAGES, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE BROADCAST VIA SATELLITE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH**

WHAT: A satellite broadcast from FEMA Headquarters for stations in flood-impacted states. The broadcast will run the following material at least twice.

Video news packages on important flood disaster recovery topics including:

Helping Kids Cope with Disaster \* Understanding the Post-Flood Damage Inspection Process \* Understanding Federal and State Disaster Assistance \* How to Protect and Preserve Flood-Damaged Keepsakes \* Returning to a Flood-Damaged Home

\* Packages marked with asterisks feed both with VO & natural sound only

Public Service Announcements on:

Reporting Disaster Fraud

Using FEMA's Toll-free Phone Number to Apply for Disaster Aid

WHEN: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST Wednesday, March 5th

WHERE: Ku Band: SBS-6, transponder 9 horizontal, downlink freq. 11921, audio 6.2/6.8

C Band: Galaxy 3, transponder 21 horizontal, downlink freq. 4120,

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Val Bunting or Phil Cogan (202) 646-4600

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## **RESIDENTS WARNED TO BE CAREFUL WHEN RETURNING TO FLOOD- DAMAGED HOMES**

To minimize your e-mail reading time, FEMA has abbreviated this news release.

A longer version of this release is available on the FEMA Website at  
<http://www.fema.gov/DIZ97/fl002.htm>

WASHINGTON March 3, 1997-- Although the flood levels in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia are not expected to crest until later this week, federal and state disaster officials are already urging people to take extra precautions when returning to flood-damaged homes, apartments or businesses.

"This is a dangerous situation," FEMA Director James Lee Witt said. "Flood hazards such as exposed wires, contaminated floodwater or a weakened foundation are not always obvious but can be life-threatening. We urge people to be very careful."

Witt also warned flood victims to be careful of potential chemical hazards such as solvents, car batteries, propane tanks and other industrial chemicals. "If you are unsure of a situation, ask for help or seek advice from an expert," Witt said. "Play it safe."

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## **RETURNING HOME AFTER A DISASTER**

Returning home after a major disaster can be both dangerous and difficult. Be careful when entering a disaster area, and be ready to adapt to the conditions at hand. Use the

following information as a guide.

Keep a battery operated radio with you to hear any emergency updates.

Put on a sturdy shoes and work gloves for protection against glass or other debris.

Check house, roof and chimney for structural damage.

Be careful when entering a damaged building.

Stay away from fallen or damaged electrical wires. They could still be alive. Do not carry lanterns or torches that could start a fire. If you have any doubts about safety, have your home inspected by a professional before entering. Watch out for animals that may have come into your home with the flood waters. Use a stick to poke through debris.

Check for injured or trapped persons.

Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.

Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance - infants, elderly people and people with disabilities.

Until phone service is fully restored, use the phone only for a life- threatening emergency.

Open closets and cupboards carefully.

Check food and water supplies before using them.

Foods that require refrigeration may be spoiled if the electricity was cut off for some time. Throw out any food that has been in contact with flood waters.

Extinguish all open flames.

Check gas supply.

If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing sound, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.

Check electricity.

If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.

Check sewage and water lines.

If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap.

You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

#### Checking Electrical Appliances

If any of the electrical appliances are wet, turn off the main power switch in the house. Unplug the appliance, dry it out, then reconnect it and turn off the main power switch back on.

If fuses or circuits blow when the electrical power is restored, turn off the main power switch again and reinspect for short circuits in the home wiring or appliances. Call a professional if the problem continues to occur.

#### Pets After A Disaster

The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.

If after a disaster you have to leave town, take your pet with you. Pets are unlikely to survive on their own.

Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasolines, or other flammable liquids.

Try to protect your home from further damage. Open windows and doors. Patch holes.

Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. The mud left behind by floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.

If your basement is flooded, pump it out gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid damage. The walls may collapse and the floor may buckle if the basement is pumped out while the surrounding ground is still waterlogged.

Throw out food, cosmetics and medicines that have come into contact with flood waters.

Stay at home and avoid driving to keep roads clear for emergency workers.

If you have flood insurance, call our agent. Take pictures of damages. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.

Get assistance from your local American Red Cross. **The Cincinnati American Red Cross' 24 hour emergency phone number is 579- 3000.** They can provide a voucher so you can buy groceries, new clothing, medications, furnishings, and other items required for daily living.

#### After a Disaster Strikes

It takes a long time from a disaster. Take your time and pace yourself. Plan a reasonable amount of activity each day. Include children in clean-up and recovery activities. Watch for signs of stress in yourself and family members. If you can't shake feelings of despair,

get professional help. While life will not be the same as before the disaster happened, you can and will recover.

Updated: February 19, 1997

## **EMERGENCY SANITATION**

After a major disaster, if water and sewage lines have been disrupted you may need to improvise emergency sanitation facilities.

### **SUPPLIES**

Always have basic sanitation supplies on hand.

Medium-sized plastic bucket with tight lid. Plastic garbage bags and ties (heavy duty)

Household chlorine bleach

Soap, liquid detergent

Toilet paper

Towelettes

### **SANITATION**

To build a makeshift toilet.

If sewage lines are broken but the toilet bowl is usable, place a garbage bag inside the bowl. If the toilet is completely backed up, make your own. Line a medium sized bucket with a garbage bag and make a toilet seat out of two boards placed parallel to each other across the bucket. An old toilet seat will also work.

To sanitize waste.

After each use, pour a disinfectant (see Disinfectants) such as bleach into the container. This will help avoid infection and stop the spread of disease. Cover the container tightly when not in use.

To dispose of waste.

Bury garbage and human waste to avoid the spread of disease by rats and insects. Dig a pit 2 to 3 feet deep and at least 50 feet downhill or away from any well, spring, or water supply. If the garbage cannot be buried immediately, strain any liquids into the emergency toilet. Wrap the residue in several layers of newspapers and store it in a large can with a tight-fitting lid. Place the can outside until it can be buried.

### **WATER SUBSTITUTES**

Water substitutes for cleansing.

Rubbing alcohol

Lotions containing alcohol

Shaving lotion

Face creams and lotions

Towelettes

Wet wash cloth Use a wet wash cloth to clean teeth, wash face, comb hair, and wash body.

Makeshift shower Use a spray bottle to shower.

#### Disinfectants

The best choice is a solution of 1 part liquid chlorine bleach to 10 parts water. Other commercial disinfectants include HTH, or calcium hypochlorite, which is available at swimming pool supply stores; portable chemical toilets, which are available through recreational vehicle supply stores; and powdered, chlorinated lime, which is available at building supply stores.

### HEALTH

#### Keeping clean.

Keeping clean is essential to good health. Because water is so precious and should be reserved for drinking purposes, consider other ways to wash the body.

#### Intestinal ailments.

Consuming contaminated water and food can cause diarrhea, poisoning, and intestinal diseases. Take steps to protect against diseases.

Keep body, hands, and cooking and eating utensils clean.

Use proper plates or eat from the original food containers if water is not available for washing dishes. Wash and peel all fruits and vegetables. Keep all food in covered containers. Prepare only as much as will be eaten at each meal.

#### Controlling rodents and insects.

Keep living area clear of debris, garbage, refuse, and body wastes.

When possible, repair holes to keep out rodents. Household insecticides will work in small and enclosed areas.

Updated: February 12, 1997